

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendments and arguments received 05-10-10.
2. Claims **20, 25, 27-28** are pending.
3. Claims **19, 21-24, 26, 29-30** were cancelled in the amendment dated 05-10-10.
4. Claims **1-18** are cancelled by examiner's amendment (see below).
5. Claim **20** is amended by examiner's amendment (see below).
6. Claims **20, 25, 27-28** are allowed.

Response to Amendments

Specification

7. Examiner acknowledges applicant's amendment to the title; the amended title is accepted by the examiner.
8. Examiner acknowledges applicant's amendment to pages 15-16 of the specification. It has been determined that no new matter has been entered.
9. The objection to the specification in the previous action is hereby withdrawn.

Other Amendments

10. Examiner acknowledges applicant's amendments to claims **20, 25, 27-28**; and the cancellation of claims **19, 21-24, 26, 29-30**. It has been determined that no new matter has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

11. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Michael I. Angert** on 06-04-10.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims **1-18** are cancelled.

Claim **20** is amended as follows:

20. (Currently Amended) A method of responding to a forced removal of a latch from a casing during an operating cycle of ~~for controlling~~ a washing apparatus having a body forming an exterior thereof, electric driving units provided to the body, an opening in a front surface of the body, a door for opening/closing the opening, a door lock comprising ~~[[a]]~~ the casing connected to the body, ~~[[a]]~~ the latch removably and securedly received within the casing, the latch connected to the door, and a switch to interrupt power flow to the electric drive units if the door lock is unlocked during ~~[[an]]~~ the operating cycle of the washing apparatus, the switch within the casing, the method comprising:

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applying current to a heater to heat a bimetal component at a start of the operating cycle;

closing, by thermal deformation of the bimetal component resulting from heat generated by the heater, the switch to permit power flow to the electric drive units;

moving, by thermal deformation of the bimetal component resulting from heat generated by the heater, a locking pin coupled to the bimetal component from an unlocked position to a locked position, wherein:

when [[if]] the latch is forcibly removed from the casing during the operating cycle, a safety lever, coupled to the latch when the latch is secured in the casing, moves the locking pin from the locked position to the unlocked position and, by movement of the locking pin to the unlocked position, moves the bimetal component to open the switch to interrupt power flow to the electric drive units regardless of whether current continues to be applied to the heater.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims **20, 25, 27-28** are allowed.

13. The reasons for allowance are as follows: The claim elements of the instant invention distinguish over the prior art. Specifically, the action of a bimetal being overcome by a lever in response to the latch being forcibly removed from the casing distinguishes over the prior art. The closest prior art, SPIESSL (US 6,634,684), overcomes the action of a bimetal with a solenoid which is activated by a control system to allow for a “pause” feature.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHARLES W. KLING whose telephone number is 571-270-5524. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 - 4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached at 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Charles W. Kling/
Examiner, Art Unit 1711

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1711